

PE1694/BB

East Renfrewshire Council submission of 7 November 2018

The drop-out rate of children having instrumental music tuition in the past two years

- 2016/17 drop-out rate was 268 children (15.5%)
- 2017/18 drop-out rate was 199 children (12.5%)

The projected drop-out rate for this year if charges for instrumental music tuition continue to increase as they have done in recent years

The projected drop-out rate for 2018/19 in ERC is anticipated to be lower than previous years as tuition costs have remained the same for the last three sessions.

Is there a particular reason that instrumental music tuition is not being regarded by education departments as a core subject?

Scottish Government advice on the curriculum does not refer to 'core subjects' but does state (page 17, Building the Curriculum 3) that "*all children and young people should experience personalisation and choice within their curriculum, including identifying and planning for opportunities for personal achievement in a range of different contexts*". Instrumental music tuition, along with a range of other opportunities, adds value and enrichment to curricula in East Renfrewshire schools and supports children and young people to achieve. However, whilst music is a 'core subject' within the experiences and outcomes included in Expressive Arts, Instrumental Music is not regarded as a 'core subject'.

We are committed to providing a wide range of excellent experiences to all our pupils, with our music service playing a key part in this approach. Our tuition fees help to cover the cost of instrumental tuition along with the ensembles, bands and orchestras that instrumental pupils access. Those studying music as an SQA course do not need to pay, a 25 per cent concession is provided for siblings and the service is entirely free for our most disadvantaged children and young people.

We have focused our Youth Music Initiative on pupils in more deprived communities by increasing musicianship classes in selected primary schools. We have introduced free pipe and drum lessons to pupils in the two clusters of schools experiencing the highest levels of deprivation, and have brought in whole class instrumental tuition to the two primary schools with the highest level of Free School Meal entitlement.